Two children killed in fog-related accidents

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: Two children died and four others sustained injuries in fog-related accidents on Sunday.

In one accident, a minor girl died and four others were injured in a collision between a motorcycle rickshaw and a van due to fog near Adda Hammad Kay on the Syed Wala Road in Jaranwala tehsil.

The deceased was identified as Dua Umair (2) and the wounded as Khadija (10), Zain (18) and Khalida Bibi (45). They were on their way to Jaranwala from Chak 239 GB.

In another accident in Jaranwala city on the Syed Wala Road, six-year-old Muhammad Hassan died after a tractor trolley ran over him due to fog.

Police said the deceased was crossing the road.

Meanwhile, a 46-year-old labourer on a loader rickshaw died in an accident near Chak 359 JB Nangal, a suburb of Gojra on Sunday evening.

According to Rescue 1122, the deceased identified as Shakeel Ahmed was going from Gojra to his Chak on a loader rickshaw with his son. He fell down when his shawl got stuck in the shaft of the rickshaw. As a result, he suffered a head injury and died on the spot.

Qawwal booked over song linked to Imran Khan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The police booked a singer for performing a song titled "Qaidi No 804" during a government-sponsored cultural event at the Shalimar Gardens here on Sunday.

The suspect, a Qawwal, has been accused of giving the event 'political colour' as the song was associated with the jailed PTI founder Imran Khan.

In the FIR, the complainant, the Shalimar Gardens in charge, Mr Zameerul Hasan, alleged that the singer, Faraz Khan, deliberately tried to exploit the cultural event and instigate people, as the song was associated with a particular political party.

He said a music and cultural night was organised by the Walled City of Lahore Authority, which was a non-political event.

However, he alleged the singer and his companions sang the song, associated with the PTI leader, on the demand of some audience.

He told the police that the suspect should have kept in his mind that the event was open to the public, and was attended by people having affiliations with different political parties.

The controversial song posed a potential risk of creating unrest or violence, the complainant said, adding that the suspect and his accomplices were liable to be booked under the law.

Gangster killed in katcha area operation

DERA GHAZI KHAN: A wanted gangster was killed in a police operation in riverine area of Rujhan Mazari, Rajanpur district.

Police conducted the intelligence-based operation against gangsters in Katcha area. DPO Muhammad Imran stated that during the operation, the ring leader of the Lound gang, Shah Deen Lound, was killed. He was wanted in more than a dozen cases of murder, kidnapping and robbery.

The DPO said police forced their entry into the gang's hideouts. "In the exchange of fire, a gangster was killed and remaining gangsters along with three injured accomplices managed to flee. Different police parties are conducting raid in the area to arrest the fleeing gangsters. — **Correspondent**

LAHORE: Participants in a marathon organised by the City Traffic Police on CBD Road near Kalma Chowk. — White Star

New policy links SHOs' performance with public feedback

A courteous, more accountable police envisaged for 2026

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: In a bid to make police people-friendly and more accountable, Lahore capital city police have introduced a new policy framework for 2026, linking the performance of all the station house officers (SHOs) and other police officials to the public feedback.

Under the new policy, 2026 will be marked as a 'transition year' during which the police officials, from constable to SHO ranks, will address the male visitors as 'Sir' and females as 'Mam', and treat them with dignity and respect to improve the police image.

A senior official says Lahore's all police stations will function as 'citizen facilitation centres' rather than 'complaint deterrents' in 2026.

He says that police's rude behaviour with the members of the public visiting the police stations has been a huge challenge for the department high-ups for the last many decades and they have been mulling ways to restore people's trust.

Currently, he says, Lahore has 84 police stations, supported by multiple Chowkis (police posts) and Police Khidmat Markaz facilities that provide services such as FIR registration, character certificates, and verification processes, in a structured environment.

As per the new policy directions, discourteous behaviour and misuse of authority inside police station will trigger fast-track departmental action, including transfer and suspension from service, against the guilty officials.

The policy, he says, will make it binding for the SHO, Muharrar and other officials managing the police stations to officially record the statement/feedback of every visitor about their experience of interacting with the relevant police personnel, from the gate to the main office of the police building.

Similarly, the official says, the response time of the 15 emergency helpline and patrolling units will also be formally linked to the performance assessment of police stations, closing long-standing gaps between field response and station-level accountability.

He says that same performance criteria are being extended to police checkpoints, as complaints of unnecessary stoppages and harassment by the officials manning the pickets have been increasing.

Identity verification and security checks will remain within the bounds of law and will not be used to inconvenience the public, he says, adding that in order to address this chronic issue the police authorities have circulated new standard guidelines to be followed at the check posts in letter and spirit.

The official says that these measures are being taken following frequent reports ofaggressive behaviour of police officers that have been adversely affecting the public perception about the police.

The emphasis on service delivery follows extensive accountability measures taken by the department during 2025.

According to official data, over 470 police officers and personnel faced departmental or legal action during the last year for misconduct, negligence or abuse of authority. These actions, police leadership maintains, have helped rebuild public confidence and reinforce internal discipline.

While issuing the policy framework for 2026, the police department reiterated its zero-tolerance toward negligence and misconduct as demonstrated by the suspension of Ichhra SHO Mohammad Ilyas for his failure to ensure public safety.

The official adds that the SHO's suspension is the beginning of a broader shift towards citizen-focused service delivery at police stations and checkpoints, as part of policing reforms.

He says that the action taken by DIG Operations Faisal Kamran, has sent a clear message across the force that accountability would be enforced without exception.

The DIG, in a recent meeting, told the divisional SPs that public protection and performance would be non-negotiable standards.

The disciplinary move is part of wider police reforms being rolled out in 2026 to ensure service delivery, accountability and respect for citizens, the official says.

Breach of surveillance protocol

FBR seals two chutes of a sugar mills

By Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) sealed on Sunday two chutes of a sugar mills in Lalian (Chiniot) for not installing digital eye-cameras and Network Video Recorder (NVR) system.

The introduction of a modern system to monitor production at all sugar mills has been introduced following instructions of the prime minister, according to a spokesperson for the FBR.

"For effective monitoring, the FBR officials have been deputed at all sugar mills," the spokesman said, adding the entire system and officials in the mills are being monitored through CCTV cameras.

The inland revenue enforcement network is also checking transportation of sugar and supply chain in the field. "The FBR pledges observing a zero-tolerance policy against tax evasion and non-compliance in the sugar sector, as these measures are part of a comprehensive tax enforcement and revenue strengthening," the spokesman explained, adding that the monitoring would continue to ensure uninterrupted provision of sugar to consumers.

The spokesman further said that following start of the crushing season for the year 2025-26, the FBR launched an improved production monitoring system for sugar. And currently, there are five oversight systems in place including Track and Trace Stamps, Automated Counters at the Hoppers for counting of the produced bags, video recording, digital eye counting, S-Track invoicing system for all the dispatches of sugar at the outgate of the sugar mills and posting of staff for overseeing the manufacturing and supervise sale of sugar.

The efficacy of the new system is ensured by the posting of FBR personnel at each mill and monitoring of the system and personnel through integrated CCTV cameras and frequent visits by senior officers of FBR, as well as random checks by the Inland Revenue Enforcement Network.

According to a spokesperson for the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA), the FBR is monitoring everything in mills right from sugarcane arrival, weight, cleaning, production process, packing, loading, supply etc. "Sugar millers cannot even sell a bag of sugar without FBR permission," the spokesman said, adding that of total 88, around 77 remained operational in last year's crushing season whereas the remaining couldn't be run due to various issues.

To a question, he said of total 88 mills, 45 exist in Punjab, followed by around 38 in Sindh and five in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa. There is no sugar mill in Balochistan, he added.

One-window registration

Home dept holds meetings with seminary leaders

LAHORE: The Punjab home department is holding meetings with leaders of all five Wafaq-ul-Madaris bodies representing seminaries for coordination and their `one-window' registration that fulfills the requirements of all relevant departments and entities.

The department has also developed a centralised form for registration to collect data and ensure better management of seminaries.

The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order (CCLO), led by health minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, on Sunday held two separate meetings – one with the leadership of Rabta-al-Madaris at Mansoora and the other with Wafaq-al-Madaris Al-Salfia Pakistan at the home department.

In the meeting at Mansoora, Mr Rafique, Home Secretary Dr Ahmad Javed Qazi, Auqaf Secretary Ehsan Bhutta and other officials concerned met Rabta-al-Madaris president Maulana Abdul Maalik, naib nazim-i-aala Maulana Syed Qutab and other representatives, and discussed law and order situation in the country.

During the meeting, the CCLO chairman said the Punjab government is promoting harmony among different religions and Muslims to ensure peace across the province. He appreciated the role of ulema in ensuring peace in the province.

The home secretary said the ulema are offering a great service by informing people about the spirit of the religion.

Maulana Maalik welcomed the Punjab government's efforts in ensuring harmony among all sects of Muslims.

At the meeting with Wafaq-al-Madaris Al-Salfia Pakistan secretary general and Nazim-e-Aala Prof Muhammad Yasin Zafar and its naib emir at the home department, Mr Rafique discussed the law and order situation and said it is the government's responsibility to protect people's lives and property. He acknowledged that the ulema are empowering the youth with religious as well as worldly knowledge.

Dr Qazi said the home department is seeking ulema's suggestions for finalisation of the policy to establish harmony and peace in the society. The ulema assured their full support for the establishment of peace, social welfare and religious harmony. — **Staff Reporter**

LITERARY NOTES

Pakistani Urdu poetry and nationalism

By Rauf Parekh

IMMEDIATELY after the creation of Pakistan, there was an overwhelming and euphoric sense of achievement and it was reflected in Urdu poetry written in the country. It was only natural for Pakistani Urdu poetry composed just after the independence to be drenched in national feelings, stressing cultural and religious identity. Two early literary movements, namely Islamic Literature Movement and Pakistani Literature Movement, launched in the nascent country, too, were manifestation of a deep sense of achievement that came in the shape of a separate homeland won on the basis of cultural and religious identity.

But there were a few dissenting voices, too. Writers and poets coming from the Marxist backdrop raised certain questions and expressed their doubts. Faiz Ahmed Faiz, for instance, wrote in August 1947 a poem titled *Subh-e-Azaadi*, or the morning of the independence, calling it a morning that was "stained and night-bitten". Dr Tahira Nighat Nayyar in her book *Urdu Shaeri Mein Pakistani Qaumiyet Ka Izhaar* (Karachi, 1999) has excerpted from some progressive Pakistani poets of Urdu, such as Zaheer Kashmiri, Ahmed Riaz and Manzoor Husain Shor Alig, who referred to independence with aversion and contempt, calling the independence a result of some politicians' lust for power. One of the reasons for this pessimism among the writers with leftist leanings — besides different political and ideological notions — was the massacre that took place during the migration when millions of people were crossing India-Pakistan border.

On the contrary, there were a few progressive writers and poets who adopted a sympathetic stance despite their distinct political or economic ideals. For instance, Asraarul Haq Majaaz, a progressive, had penned Pakistan's anthem in pre-independence era. Majaaz did not migrate to Pakistan, though. Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi, Shor Alig, Ahmed Riaz, Zaheer Kashmiri and some other progressives though first showed their disappointment, later on expressed good wishes for the new country in its early days and in later years, too.

Post-independence Pakistani Urdu poetry depicts issues related to migration, riots, political instability, social and economic woes as well as Kashmir issue. In October 1947, Indian forces landed in Srinagar, claiming to counter an attack by the tribesmen backed by Pakistan. Pakistani poets expressed solidarity with Kashmir and till today many Pakistani poets support Kashmiri people and their right of self-determination.

Some poets, for instance, Nasir Kazmi and Himayat Ali Shaer, who had migrated to Pakistan, lamented the mayhem in the wake of independence and it was a collective understanding of many others who had come to Pakistan with dreams and hopes but apprehensions of a precarious future and economic uncertainties haunted them. At the same time, however, poets like Rais Amrohvi, M. D. Taseer, Yousuf Zafar, Kaif Banarsi, Nazar Hyderabadi, Asar Sehbai, Mahirul Qadri and some others expressed in their poetry hopes and faith in the new country and its future.

The initial euphoria soon gave way to disillusionment and some poets, such as, Hafeez Jallundhri and Rais Amrohvi, though having expressed their belief in Pakistan, complained of the bureaucratic wrangling. Rais Amrohvi wrote that the new system was different only to the extent that 'gora sahib' had been replaced with 'kala sahib', writes Dr Ansar Abbas in his book *Milli Naghma: Fan Aur Rivayet* (Faislabad, 2024). Strangely, some poets who themselves were government officials, such as, Jameeluddin Aali, lamented the ineptness and callousness of bureaucracy. Though later on, especially during Pak-India wars in 1965 and 1971, both Rais and Aali penned some moving national songs. Their soulful and memorable poems and songs vouch for their deep patriotism.

But patriotic feelings are more than merely chanting 'Pakistan Zindabad', as Dr Tahir Nighat wrote. Patriotism calls for respecting local cultural icons and loving the geographical marvels of the motherland. Some poets blended wonderfully well the local cultural phenomena with their poetic acumen, capturing essence of local traditions and indigenous colours, otherwise rarely portrayed in Urdu poetry. Poetic works by Sher Afzal Jafri, Abdul Majeed Bhatti, Shafi Aqeel, Farigh Bukhari, Raza Hamdani, Rafiq Khawar, Afzal Pervez, Majeed Amjad, Altaf Parvaaz, A.D. Azhar and Khatir Ghaznavi, to name but a few, portrayed different areas and provinces of Pakistan affectionately, including erstwhile East Pakistan, thereby creating a sense of national unity.

Detailed review of nationalistic poetry in Urdu is too vast a topic to be covered here, but what we can easily discern from the two books named above is that all major events of political and national significance have been covered by many Pakistani poets of Urdu with a nationalistic view, for example, martial law, 1965 war, 1971 debacle, Pak-China friendship, Russian invasion of Afghanistan, and what not. Other poets who delineated nationalism in one way or the other are: Sufi Tabassum, Sehba Akhter, Syed Zameer Jafri, Qayyum Nazar, Hafeez Taaib, Jafer Tahir, Qateel Shifai, Saqi Javed and many more.